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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/772,413	02/06/2004	Christiaan H.P. Dirks	4662-269	2078
23117	7590	06/24/2009	EXAMINER	
NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC 901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22203			ARAJ, MICHAEL J	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER			
	3775			
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
06/24/2009	PAPER			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/772,413	Applicant(s) DIRKS ET AL.
	Examiner MICHAEL J. ARAJ	Art Unit 3775

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 March 2009.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,2,5-10,13,15-19 and 21-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2, 5-10, 13, 15-19 and 21-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 19 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 19, line 5 it appears that there is a misspelling. "the surgical cable together so s to form" should be 'the surgical cable together so as to form. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

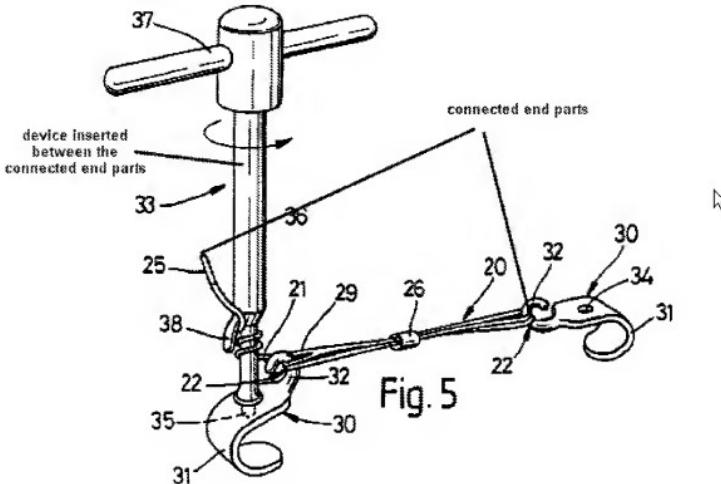
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bevan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,725,582).

Bevan et al. disclose a method for tying together objects (31) including laying a surgical cable made of a biocompatible/polymer fiber, having two end parts, around at least part of the objects to be tied together, wherein the cable is twisted yarn having an eye/knot (29) at least on of the end parts; connecting the end parts of the cable together so as to form a closed loop; inserting a device between the connected ends parts of the closed loop and the bone parts to be fixed (see Figure 5 below); twisting the device so as to exert a torsion force on the end parts to thereby responsively bring the cable under tension required for tying together the objects with the help of a device (33); and locking the tensioned cable (26) against the influence of forces acting counter to the

exerted torsion force thereon. It is seen that two ends have eyes with can be seen in Figure 5 (29 and adjacent to 22). The drawing force exerted on the cable is allowed due to the eyes of the cable when the device is twisted. The method fixed two vertebrae.



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

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the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 18 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bevan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,725,582).

Bevan et al. disclose the claimed invention except for the fiber being of a high performance high molecular weight, high performance fibers and polyethylene fibers having a tensile strength of at least 1.8 Gpa and a modulus of at least 60 Gpa. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to the device of Bevan et al. with these materials having these features, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

Claims 8-10, 16 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bevan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,725,582) in view of Crouch et al. (US Patent Number 4,788,814), previously cited by examiner.

Bevan et al. disclose the claimed method except for the loop of fibers being closed by a splice, the splice comprising an air splice and the two end parts being connected by a splice. Crouch et al. disclose a method using air splicing and teach the use of air splicing to connect the trailing end to the leading end of the yarn (see abstract). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made for the method of Bevan et al., to include the loop of fibers being closed by a splice, the splice comprising an air splice and the two end parts being connected by a

splice, in view of Crouch et al., to connect the trailing end to the leading end of the yarn. In addition, splicing /air splicing is well known in the art.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 3/17/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Please see rejection above with newly added figure 5.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL J. ARAJ whose telephone number is (571)272-5963. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Barrett can be reached on 571-272-4746. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael J Araj/
Examiner, Art Unit 3775

/Thomas C. Barrett/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3775